
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Minister at Large in Lowell.

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TO THE

LOWELL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

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REPORT.

THANK HEAVEN! we draw a freer breath than we could the last winter. Then we sat brooding over the financial troubles which had prostrated trade and palsied the willing arm of industry; the end of which troubles no one could foresee. There was darkness over all the land. Then we were oppressed by the thought of the suffering through want, which, like an armed man, had broken into the habitations of the poor. Even the abodes of comfort and independence were not proof against the assaults of the destroyer: the strong man was bound and his house despoiled.

Thanks to Heaven! for the pity and generosity which everywhere sprung to the rescue of those suffering and those about to suffer; for the Heaven-born good will manifesting itself in many places in a very unusual manner, and for the fuller flow among us of the stream of benevolence, never failing, ever ready, when and where really needed.

Thanks be to Heaven! from the hearts of all who found relief in the hour of no employment. May they not soon forget the kindness which ministered to their necessities. May they help on the benign effects of benevolence exercised, and gratitude manifested,—increased affection, mutual faith, closer union of all classes in friendly sympathy and divine action.

Beyond all expectation, we were borne well through the last winter, which, under man, was the hardest

perhaps since the first year of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers ; but under God, beyond doubt, in every point of view, the most merciful in our history. That winter has gone nine months on toward oblivion. Before it is quite lost sight of, we would make a record of the measures taken to meet its terrors, and gather into our bosoms the lessons taught by our experience and reflection.

At the commencement of the winter season, such a large field of poverty opened before me that it seemed improbable that, unaided, even if blessed with full energy, I could possibly go over the ground with the labor demanded, satisfactorily to myself or others. In conjunction with those most nearly associated with me in this work of charity, a meeting of the most benevolent citizens was called, and a temporary organization effected, under the name of the Relief Association, which was designed to afford thorough and wise relief to all subjects of private charity. The details of the steps and plans of this movement were given in the last report, in February. The operations of the Association to that time were also narrated. The Association expired by limitation on the first of May last. A full account of the work of this organization, which was conducted on the principles of this Ministry, should have been drawn up by myself as the agent of action, and presented in these pages, but being unable to pen it at the required time, data were furnished from the Central Office to the Chairman of the Board of Managers, and he was invited by the Board to make the report. The report was published in the papers of the city, and from that source

particular information can be gleaned. It appears that the whole number of applications at the Central Office from December 14 to April 24, was eight hundred and fifty-six; two hundred and five of whom were referred to the City, to churches, to societies, to relatives and other individuals, upon whose benevolence there were claims for benefactions. Seven hundred and thirty-four applicants received more or less aid as follows:—Four hundred and forty-three, food; one hundred and forty-six, fuel; eighty-two, shoes; forty-three, clothing. The greatest demand during this period was for food. Fuel was not needed to the usual extent, and great quantities were obtained in pay for the labor of clearing land in the neighborhood. Most of the shoes and clothing required for the winter were given out before the organization went into operation. The whole expenditure for charity, during the existence of the Association, was \$857 00, which, with the amount expended by me prior to December 14, and paid from the money raised under this organization, made \$1208 14, contributed by the citizens, and disbursed by me for the poor through the cold season; a sum only \$300 more than has been expended by me in a previous season. Was the amount raised enough for the emergency? In my opinion, we had about all that was needed, all that it was wise to expend in addition to what belonged to the State, to the City, to societies to do, and what was done by individuals. The sum expended by us now, with advanced knowledge, insight, experience, system and the accumulated influence of years, tells with tenfold more value on the comfort and weal

of the community than the same sum would ten years ago. A much larger sum than the one raised, disbursed by us, might have added to dependence and waste, and abstracted from the good effects of occasional straits. An error is often committed, even where there is discrimination, of giving too much alms, giving too readily, and continuing them too long. The designs of an over-ruling Providence we believe to be two-fold; to make tender and expansive our love, but to teach thoughtfulness, prudence, good habits, industry, and to arouse to energy, ingenuity, and self-sacrifice. It should be the highest office of charity to yield to love, and restrain and direct it so as not to counteract, but help, the other effects of passing wisdom infinite. It is an impulse of nature, and of a divine spirit, often to give; but it is an attainment of divine thought and of a higher divinity of spirit,—it is an approach the nearest to the action of the Father and of the Redeemer,—to withhold or give with a constant and careful reference to the temporal and spiritual good of the individual and of all with whom he is connected, and with a regard to the future of life as well as the present hour.

I desire to express my thanks to all who joined us in efforts to meet the exigencies of the winter, to help the sinking bear the burden of it. I cannot but renew my thanks to the Board of Managers of the Association for the ability and fidelity with which at the office, in the streets, and in the Committee they discharged the duties cheerfully assumed. My connection with them was very agreeable. United interest, attention to business, promptness and despatch do not often so distinguish a Committee.

A source of deep regret, in connection with the Association, was an early misapprehension on the part of the visitors,—an idea that all who were poor were subjects of our action. This misunderstanding was accompanied by an expectation that the individuals recommended would of course receive aid. Not receiving it, there sprung up ideas of inattention, of a capricious or wayward partiality, and of a denial sometimes abrupt and ungracious. Some explanation is due. Beside, with all advance of the views and principles of charity above common attainment and with every fresh start of inexperienced and undisciplined benevolence on the field of action, we have an experience more and more trying, which makes some general remarks necessary on the point of extending relief to those applying or sent for assistance.

Last winter the lines of separation among the poor were more definitely drawn than heretofore, and were distinctly made public. It was fully understood and agreed to by that most respectable body of our leading citizens convened in organization at the Common Council Room, that a portion not inconsiderable of the poor of the city legally and properly belonged to the State; that beyond these the greatest number, including those of the State poor of the most worthy character and temporarily unfortunate, belonged to the care and expense of the City Government, except where modest worth required private charity; that those connected with religious societies had a claim upon them, which would in general be readily acknowledged; that each charitable society should take care of its members; and that relatives ought not to

be encouraged in shirking their obligations. These distinct statements, this discriminating and clear analysis of cases, approved by all, was hailed as the dawn of a better day in charitable operations. My position was taken on this groundwork of our convictions. At the same time it was well known that there were difficulties to be expected, and that there was a liability to constant misrepresentation. Could the position have been otherwise? What are convictions worth if not acted upon? What is any man worth if not true and firm enough to withstand any pressure upon him of mere solicitation, appeals to the feeling, wishes of friends, or threats of trouble, where there is an important rule and a principle involved?

No sooner did we commence operations than a throng was sent to me for aid. Many were proper subjects for the State Alms House, where good provision was made for them, or were subjects for the action of the city; which, after January 1st, was ready to attend suitably to their wants. Not a few of these were old cases of settled inefficiency, intemperance, gambling and lust, or cases of chronic begging, of bold faced or sly faced importunity; not known to be such, but none the less such. Of course the private money of benevolent citizens could not conscientiously be ordered for their relief, though they were sent by the most respected philanthropy. But they urged that they were told to come to me and that I would surely relieve them, from money put into my hands for that purpose. There was of course great disappointment, for which I was sorry; but with me there was neither cause nor a remedy. Some return-

ed to those who sent them, in ill-humor, perhaps in a rage, giving a false construction and coloring to words of denial, to excite, if possible, indignation and commiseration,—to make capital out of me, supposed to have capital for them, “if I only pleased to give it to them, instead of to others, not half so worthy.” This sometimes natural working of disappointment and sometimes consummate art of determined laziness and profligacy, is not yet understood! It is the cause of occasional storms about me. I ought to be expected to say what I do; knowing that I was to be misunderstood, would certainly be misrepresented, would lose favor, and that the cause of charity might suffer in the houses of the best, I never could allow myself to trim with relief in such cases. After pursuing a straight forward course in active life for more than a quarter of a century against every kind of opposition and prejudice, with a general success and favor, and never having had occasion to lose confidence in principle, I ought to be supposed possessed of some bravery to meet unpleasant consequences. In the cases of the individuals referred to, I could not take the time and trouble to follow them with words to all the truly kind hearts who sent them, and then, perhaps, would have found that the “less said the better.” The only allowable position was to decide as seemed clearly right, to trust to intelligence and leave to time to open eyes and deal justice. This position taken, I have never seen reason to repent of it. There is an over-ruling Providence. Misjudging hearts come round to the right. Therefore I put myself in hostile attitude to none, but trust in them;

while I ask forbearance toward any fault which, springing out of a driving occupation or an experience, sometimes rough, may be found attached to an intended uprightness, an intended loyalty to a high minded, far sighting benevolence.

Beside the cases just specified not subjects for our action, because not of the character for which private charity was designed, there are others in which there is known to be a worthiness and a modesty which seem to give a claim upon our means. And yet the claim, according to the adopted classification of cases may be found to belong to some other source of supply. If acknowledged and attended to by us, smaller and more infrequent measures of relief may be given than may seem adequate. Here there is not infrequently a ground for variance. It is painful not to agree. But I feel compelled to say that where there is a difference of judgment, the decision, after a candid weighing of the opposite thought, must be according to our judgment, and not that of others. The seat of judgment is mine. The business is my business. In this department, there is with any one acting in it, without any assumption, of course, on all points, a wider and more particular knowledge; more knowledge and familiarity with what are considered by the most intelligent and most practical thinkers the best principles and methods; a quicker insight, more acquaintance with the workings of human nature in the low conditions of life, and a larger experience in action. An independence of judgment and a deference to it belongs to one in this as well as to others in other business. The manufacturer who gives his

whole mind to his business understands it better than any one else can. The physician his. And so the lawyer, the school teacher, the printer, the agriculturalist, the mechanic. I do not know how a higher respect could be shown to the great body of supporters of this ministry than to suppose an intelligent understanding of this nature, and a readiness to resort to and abide by what has been carefully brought out as the highest standard of charitable action.

Be assured that the great problem of charity,—using the word in no narrow sense,—even of almsgiving alone, can never be solved, until there is a reference to some intelligent standard or system, based on practical knowledge, fixed for the time, and yet ever receiving to itself the improvement which higher wisdom may suggest; until the State, the City, associations, churches and individuals, all unitedly combine to govern themselves by it, and to commit the business pertaining to it, as business, unto fit, faithful, true and abiding men. Many years will pass before men will have so risen, by forethought and self-reliance, out of poverty,—nearly the whole of it an unnecessary condition of life; before Christian light and discipline shall so have advanced, before the thoughtful and self-sacrificing spirit of the Master shall so prevail,—that what is now declared to be necessary will no longer be.

At present mere feeling, favor, political interest, ignorance, inattention, methods born out of due time, and Christians not half born, men absorbed in other pursuits, changes of men, weak mercy, indiscriminate distribution, and profuse liberality are, independent

of other causes, making poverty in this country faster than struggling intelligence, thoughtfulness and forethought can unmake or prevent it.

There is need of great improvement in our City, although we are believed not to be behind any other in some respects. Probably there is not a city in America where, among the wealthy and influential citizens, begging at the doors has been so decidedly and generally discouraged for years, where the most advanced views predominate in so many leading minds. For more than a decade of years, principle and system have been marching straight forward to an ascendancy. Still there is too much encouragement given to the beggar, and too much begging from the treasury of the city. During the past two years, however, and especially the last, the city has taken a considerable step onward in careful investigation, in economical distribution of food, and in furnishing employment as pay for the necessities of life. It is becoming more and more evident every year, that a distinct pauper department is needed with a permanent head. It was urged in the paper of the President of the Relief Association last March, who, in commending a report of the late Mayor Ritchie, Minister at large in Roxbury, referred to the agent who had acted for the Pauper Department of that city for one year with good results. I would add that for several years an agent has thus acted in Charlestown successfully. He also referred to the recommendation of a similar measure by Mayor Huntington in 1852. In 1851 it was recommended at length in one of these reports, beside having been suggested in them previously, and re-

peatedly urged since, as a very important measure. Shall we soon follow in the path of the cities advancing in this respect, or remain behind at an expense of more money and with an increase of pauperism?

The form into which the administration of private charity was thrown the last year, with the attempt to meet an exigency not occurring to the extent threatened, will have the effect, it is trusted, of spreading the knowledge of the rules and objects which govern the usual operations of the Missionary Association among the poor, and of the economical and careful methods, by which the money committed in trust is accounted for. Credit should be given to the several dealers in wood and provisions, who made liberal deductions in behalf of the poor, and to the ladies who sought to meet the great wants of the clothing department. We are happy to say that we have, through the ready kindness of several gentlemen and the liberal deduction of Grover & Baker, one of their best sewing machines, which, while it will not supersede the necessity of help, and will not be allowed to take work from needy fingers, will greatly multiply our means of comfort to the destitute.

Credit is due to the churches, most of whom stood up to meet their duties to their own poor through the crisis of last winter. I would respectfully suggest to them entering more largely upon their distinctive charitable work, whether in most cases, if not in all, it would not be better to have individuals relieved entirely by the societies, than in part by the City—which last leads the way to the great treasury, by degrees breaks down the wholesome reluctance to pub-

licity, and weakens the tie of religious affection and brotherly dependence ; whether, too, the wants of individuals had not better be met by a standing committee of kindness and business talent united, be kept by them strictly private, and not be trumpeted and appealed for all through the society ; whether there should not be a fixed system of distribution on settled grounds of final good, and not a piling upon one of every thing, and then, in a reactionary state doing nothing ; whether also it should not be known, if there is a drawing from other sources, whether it should not be ascertained if the family or individual in want is attaching itself for a season to the society by an adopted law of rotation, until all patience shall be exhausted, and if the bounty is not bestowed upon idleness, shiftlessness or vice. The Catholic churches did something the last year, but there seems to be a very slow approach toward the assumption of that care of their poor which seems to be acknowledged in some other cities, where they are less numerous and less able than here. When they do their duty with systematic visitation and help, there will not only not be so much knocking at our doors and thronging at the Mayor's office, but, if they do their work thoroughly, keenly, there will not be so many beggars among them, as with us. A Priest in a neighboring city is reported to have said, and if he said it, it was creditable both to his mind and his heart :—" I wonder, I am amazed, that the Americans help the Irish so much. We never should think of helping a quarter part of them. We know them better than you do. We know what

they might do, if they would. Send them to us." There is no question that there is a considerable class of them who do love to loiter and drink rum, or sit down inefficiently, sip tea and smoke tobacco, and let time pass by without disturbing a stupid equanimity. I once knew a man who, as his boys reached a certain age, threw each one of them from the head of a wharf into deep water and told them to "sink, or swim." They all swam, and made expert swimmers. The success was signal. However the wisdom of the act may be doubted,—the success and wisdom of the energy of the public will cannot be questioned, which should say to not a few, "starve, or help yourself." Although we might not see how they could do it, they will find some way to help themselves before they would suffer much or long. The legitimate effect of poverty is to rouse men, stir their wits and make them sturdy and self-dependent. When we see an able man struggling with penury, we may well hesitate about the helping, or he will wrestle no more. Let him wrestle on, and make the sinews which achieve prosperity. Many a man owes a remarkable success in life to being left to work his own way out of adversity.

Looking at the great issues of the financial troubles and wide-spread destitution of the year past, we cannot regret the occurrence of the calamity. Never were men more impressed with the importance of employment, never rejoiced more in its return than now. Never was there more good feeling among all classes one toward another. It has been good to give, good to sympathize. We prize the comforts of life more

than ever, and we see and feel, as never before, that all earthly things are uncertain, and that one thing is needful. God knows what is best. Evil as well as good may flow from the last year's troubles unless we have a watchful eye and courage to withhold. Many who received their first lesson in dependence in the previous winter may want a second now when there is no pressing occasion, and so easily slide into a habit of continually asking and a relaxation of efforts towards their own support.

I am fully aware that the report thus far seems to wear a very material air; but that has been the great aspect the year gone by has presented. It has been forced upon us. And it is by no means of light importance. United by invisible and by indissoluble connections without number, are our material and spiritual interests. I stop not to trace them. I will only say that while some boast of attention only to the direct spiritual wants of poverty, they work in union with God only in part. "What God has joined together let not man put asunder." Beside, the material interests of poverty, intimately affecting the spiritual, and through which the spiritual are reached, are as yet very poorly understood, their important bearings scarcely recognized, and too little of mind in its higher cultivation and discipline, and of the heart in its loftier qualities are brought to tell upon them. Therefore it is that poverty, seemingly in the distance a very easy matter to treat, closely approached is a cloud, an enigma, a mystery, a confounding puzzle, and often every step to lessen it increases it. Whoever has any thought that has been exercised in

the depths of this subject practically, is bound to bring it, however humble, to the altar as an offering; that by the gift he may obtain more light, a better guidance for self and others.

A full devotion to the duties of my office through the year has been prevented by interruptions to my health, which had been overtaken, but which, by great care, seems to be recovering its tone and vigor. During a necessary absence of two months, the new assistant, Mrs. Sarah K. Snow, attended faithfully and ably to all the business committed to her charge. In many of the details of her large work, and in the cares which appropriately belong to female supervision, her labors have been performed with constancy and fidelity, and are an important addition to our means of usefulness.

The office of the Chapel was thronged six months in the year with applicants for advice and assistance. A new plan was adopted of a reception room, from which, one by one, they passed into the office, and in entire privacy disclosed their griefs and wants, had recorded their names and history, and received attention adapted to the requirements of their case. This arrangement proved very satisfactory to many persons of delicate feelings, who were forced to apply in a season of general distress, and prevented an advantage being taken of the knowledge of disposal. It will be continued as a settled plan.

The Sabbath services of the Chapel have been somewhat affected in attendance, by inability on my part steadily to minister at the Altar, and make all the visits required in connection. But the attend-

ance has been about as usual. Lately it has much increased. There has been a considerable increase of religious interest. The choir at the Chapel is deserving of notice. For its adherence, deportment and unity of spirit, never disturbed, aside from other distinctions, it merits the expression of a deep gratification and a warm admiration. Miss L. E. Penhallow has very kindly continued her instructions to the Bible Class, who prize her words to them very highly, and profit much by them. Much seed sown has produced much fruit. The Sunday School has had a better average attendance than heretofore, and its influence on the two hundred who have shared its privileges, and through them upon their parents, their brothers, sisters and playmates, have been such as should give joy to every heart. The adult Sunday School and Juvenile Libraries have been somewhat increased during the year, but each requires large additions. To gratify the appetite for well selected reading in the circle in which our books circulate is very important indeed. The social meetings for the children in the early hours of winter evenings; the regular commemoration of the birthday of Washington; the glad welcome to the return of flowers on May-day; the offering of the flowers every Sunday on the altar, and the presentation of them to the children; a rural excursion in fruit time; a Thanksgiving service, with suitable presents, and the Christmas service, with its decorations, dinner and gifts, have, it is believed, beautifully diversified the year to the young, infused into many a saddened heart glad enjoyment, quickened to a new vitality, and made more

sure elevation and salvation. The Sewing School kept four months in the winter season, and was remarkably well attended by one hundred and sixty girls. It was superintended and taught by Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Snow. Children are invited to this school from every quarter by printed circulars.

The Free Evening School on Middlesex street closed its thirteenth session, last year, in January, one month earlier than ever before, and its statistics were given in the last report, which was, of necessity, presented one month after the time it was due. The Suffolk street School commenced December 1st, 1857, and closed its sixth session February, 25th, 1858. The number entered as scholars was 570,—300 males, 270 females; or, deducting those not persevering in attendance and those dismissed, the whole number was 420. The largest attendance was 315. Most of the scholars were between fifteen and twenty-one years of age. Forty obtained certificates of commendation for not being absent at all; twenty-five certificates of honor for very striking improvement; and for distinction in attendance, improvement and deportment above all others, eight had awarded to them a privilege in the City Library. The general attendance upon the School was much more uniform than in any previous year. The young men deserve great credit for increased attention to study and improved conduct. May not the young women long be behind them in respectful decorum, self-respect and ambition, as a body. When this shall be the case, their number will greatly increase

and abide. The number of teachers was thirty-three.*

This was a considerable increase over previous years, and was productive of increased interest and improvement. The teachers better understand the nature and requirements of the School, and adapt themselves with a sturdier courage and a more self-sacrificing devotedness. When the teachers shall all attend from the beginning to the end of the school, with the regularity of some, the good results of the School will be greatly multiplied. One teacher, the last winter, taught every night in this School, and also in the Middlesex street School, without an absence for three months, and this too after a day's work in the mill! We know not how much we can do until we try; how useful we can make ourselves; what a store of happy reflections are at our command; how we can ennoble ourselves!

At the close of the School, the scholars were collected before the School Committee. After the reading of the report, Rev. Dr. Cleaveland, chairman on the occasion, made some remarks, in which he spoke of the difficulties which had attended the establishment and development of this school, and declared that its present condition, as manifested now, and on visitation, was a complete triumph. He said that

*The teachers were H. Wood, Charles A. Kendall, Charles Coburn, William J. Burnham, William G. Ward, John Wellington, Warren Taylor, Charles W. Kimball, George T. Comins, Frank Wilson, Susan Wright, Sarah L. Southworth, Mary L. Dudley, Elizabeth A. Riley, Maria E. Hadley, Sarah A. Hadley, Sarah Lawson, Mary N. Charles, Lucinda J. Nichols, Orianna H. Sherwin, Harriet A. Hadley, Nancy J. Gordon, Ellen Sullivan, May Elizabeth Mongovan, Catherine H. Murphy, Anna M. Murphy, Mary E. Gordon, Helen M. Lovejoy, Mary F. Stone, Mary C. Gardner.

these schools were of so much benefit to the city that more liberal means ought to be furnished them, and their number multiplied. William S. Southworth, Esq., Agent of the Lawrence Corporation, expressed his deep approbation at the sight before him. He was interested, greatly interested. In the large collection of scholars he recognized many faces which he looked upon every day, as they went to and from their labor. He and they worked together almost under the same roof. He was happy to see this improvement after the toils of the day were over. He had rather by far employ one who spent his evenings with his book in hand and figuring on his slate, than one who passed his evenings in idleness or in getting a street education, the worst education in the world. Remarks were also offered by E. F. Sherman, Esq., Secretary of the Board; by Charles Cowley, Esq., earnestly for the multiplication of the schools; by Mr. Artemas L. Brooks, and Mr. Frederick Holton.

In the two schools, last year, there were registered eleven hundred and ninety names, of which eight hundred and forty-two continued as scholars proper. There were about an equal number of each sex. One hundred and forty received certificates for much improvement. Twenty were presented with a privilege to the City Library, the highest honor of the School. The librarian has expressed to me the delight he has felt in giving out the books to these scholars, so touched by the honor, and so eager and regular in application for the books. In general, when the term of their privilege expires, they continue their names with the habit of reading formed. Not a case is

known where one has ever before had a book from the Library. The whole number of teachers was sixty-eight—forty-six female, twenty-two male. This shows an increase of one-third over any previous year, with marked good effects on the Schools. By engaging in this work, our sons and daughters have developed their manly and womanly qualities, selfishness is broken down, and their hearts beat more largely and happily. The School Committee have had an earnest, almost irrepressible, desire to see another school established this season, and have only been restrained in the movement by the thought that it might be wiser to wait until another year, when more financial prosperity might make sure a start under more favorable auspices. May we never fail to have a Committee like that of the year 1858, with their eyes open to the value of these Schools, and panting to have their blessings extended all through the city. And may we always have a City Government as ready to grant any reasonable favor asked for them.

On the twentieth of March last, those in prison in the city were moved into the new jail, the occupation of which was an event upon which the City and the County are to be especially congratulated, not so much on account of the greatness and grandeur of the edifice, which at so much expense has been reared, and which must wait for a just judgment upon its expediency to the generation coming; as because of a transfer from a building too confined and ill-adapted to the times, to one with more humane accommodations, admirably well ventilated, and admit-

ting of the great ends of imprisonment being better accomplished; and more, because a better system of arrangements and management make recommitment less probable, contamination within the wall almost impossible, and agencies for elevation and reformation, with many, to some degree, and with some to a great degree, effective. In the old jail, no religious service, to my knowledge, was ever held; repeated attempts to induce serious thought by the minister, laymen and the benevolent female, were soon abandoned as of no use, under such circumstances; and the condition of the prisoner there, especially of the young and of females, amid evil communication, has for years been a cause of lamentation with thoughtful philanthropists. Now a new day has dawned. No profanity, lewd song, or noise is heard within the new walls. There is entire separation, no loud talking permitted, stillness reigns, selected books and papers are carried round every day to the cells, the cells are visited during each week with words of counsel and exhortation, and every Sabbath day all are together for worship and instruction. The first day in the new jail was a Sabbath. The Sheriff had been very earnest for a constant religious service, and had invited me, then and after, to officiate as Chaplain. Though having duty enough, and not in full health, I accepted the invitation for a while, because of the close connection of the jail with all my official movements; because that I had been prevented from manifesting an interest in the old jail, and was ready to help in the establishment of a new order of things; and because my earliest efforts in behalf of others

were for the prisoner, and in this very County. Twenty-six years ago I visited alone the Cambridge Jail, was touched to find the prisoners abandoned to themselves, without a friend to say a reflecting and saving word, and immediately sought to interest the most sympathetic around me in their behalf. With a friend, I visited Lowell to obtain leave of Sheriff Varnum to introduce religious instruction there. Encouraging assent was granted. From that time for two years, myself and a number of others were, on each Sabbath, locked up in the cells with the sinful and unfortunate, and strove to awaken the inmates to reflection and rouse to a better life. On a late visit to Cambridge, it was with a painful heart that I found in existence the same old jail, with its few large rooms; several individuals in a cell together, old and young, old offenders and young offenders, in rooms with small windows, made more dark and dreary by other walls built up around; the prisoners shut up by themselves without a watchful eye in the building. For the honor of the county, we hope and pray that a change for the better may soon be effected there. In this jail, the effect of the Sabbath service has been heightened by a large choir of singers, who to voluntary labor have added the charm of constant service. The music is an efficient aid in composing and softening the heart. The testimony of the prisoners is but one, and often outspoken, as to the great kindness of all in present connection with them, and is not unfrequently uttered with a full heart, as to the effect of the religious service. Its effect is not more marked in an Insane

Hospital than upon the deranged heart of the criminal. The discourses, which most arrest the attention, and produce the most subduing and lasting effects, are those upon the wonderful and beneficent designs of the works of God; scripture biography of men in prison, and biography of men in common life, erring and reforming; and the delineations of the love of a Heavenly Father; the love of Christ, the love of any fellow-beings, and especially of a mother.* Views which inspire hope are very grateful to those who have been considered and have considered themselves past hope. Some, on leaving the jail, do indeed go straight to their cups, straight to re-kindling the fires of lust, straight as an ox to the slaughter; but still, away from temptation, a better state of the heart was temporarily effected, which no man can say may not, at some time, return and be lasting; while many go again into the world to be more wise. Simple and single efforts to do good, kindness, love, faith and hope, do now, and ever will, in every direction, be blessed, as long as God is in the Heaven, and man upon the earth.

On the subject of intemperance, or the sale and use of intoxicating liquors,—the cause of three-fourths of the imprisonment, poverty, quarrels, wretchedness and ruin of men, women and children,—at this time it is difficult to know what to say. But this much is evident, that we ought not to lose, but be deepening,

* A prisoner, lately asked if he had a mother, answered, "Yes, a pious one," and, with tears in his eyes, said, "he would not have his mother know he was in jail for 10,000 guineas." The returning instructions of maternal lips caused him to vow a return to a pure and sober life.

a sense of the enormity of the transgression of selling and of drinking, of the wide-spread misery and expense fastening themselves upon all our chief cities, and through them casting a blight over all this fair land. The evil has greatly extended the last year. We must not be discouraged. We must struggle on, warring with interest, selfishness, money, appetite,—studying, legislating, contending for the right and good, inch by inch, if need be, until success shall break upon the whole field, and victory be won. The establishment of an uprising inebriate asylum at Binghampton in the State of New York, the first asylum of its kind in the world, will, it is to be hoped, prove the first of a long line of institutions to spring up everywhere, to be instead of jails, houses of corrections, and poorhouses, places of commitment or refuge, for the victims of alcoholic drinks. As a step in the right direction, promising great relief through intelligent, systematic and adapted kindness to suffering families and a burdened community; as a mitigation of woe, we hail the movement. But at the same time we must not forget the incontrovertible maxim, the corner-stone of all wise philanthropy, that *prevention* is better than cure.

The preventive and reformatory institution for the straying young, the Industrial School at Lancaster, is constantly proving itself a benefit to the wayward girls sent there from our streets, and is worthy of our confidence and admiration. At our own doors, no remedial measure has ever produced such effects in staying the progress of ignorance and crime in early years, as the truant agency. Its effects are more ob-

servable every year. There is a very striking contrast between our streets and by-ways in school-hours now and six years ago. The measure is one, however, that requires close devotion and unremitting watchfulness, to meet evading arts and sharp wits, and ensure advancement to the highest attainable results. The Truant Commissioner, Mr. Jesse Huse, has proved himself faithful and efficient in the discharge of his duties. Every year's experience adds to the value of his services.

The receipts of the Poor's Purse for the year ending October 1, 1858, were \$521 24. The expenditures, \$570 18.*

*RECEIPTS.	
From Rev. Mr. Worrall, proceeds of a lecture, - - - -	10.34
From No. 1 Merrimack Corporation, - - - -	5.23
From Hon. Caleb Cushing, - - - -	45.00
From the Shoe Society, by Miss F. Wright, - - - -	17.06
From a Sunday School gathering, - - - -	5.39
From the Treasurer of the Relief Association, - - - -	377.28
From the Hamilton Protective Union, - - - -	3.95
From the South Congregational Society, - - - -	38.50
From friends at Christmas, - - - -	11.49
	<hr/>
	\$521.24

EXPENSES.	
For Stores, Clothing and Wood, - - - -	376.99
For all other expenses in aid of the poor, - - - -	193.19
	<hr/>
	\$570.18

There were other sums received during the existence of the Relief Association, which were passed into its treasury, and were acknowledged in its final account.

The undersigned, a Committee of the Lowell Missionary Association, appointed to examine the accounts of the Rev. H. Wood, have audited his charity account to October 1st, and have found the same properly cast, and the expenditures are approved. They find that the expenditures have exceeded the receipts forty-eight 94-100 dollars, that amount being due him at the above date.

JOHN AVERY,
H. WRIGHT,
W. G. WISE.

Lowell, December 17th, 1858.

I throw myself upon the indulgence of a co-operating community for the defective service rendered the poor, ignorant and vicious, the past year. As far as there has been an under-service, there will be found an over-service in previous years to strike the balance. Returning ability for hardwork will not fail of activity. How could it with so much pressing, waiting to be done.

In relation to the passing winter, it appears to me that we have a current to stem of poverty that seeks charity unnecessarily. Because open hearts, roused by an unusual appeal of hard times, last winter, gave freely, there is encouragement to ask, and expect favors which may be easily granted, and there is a disposition with some to look more to these favors than to self-exertion. In lieu of this, there ought to be an unwillingness to take advantage of ready kindness, a gratitude for help, and a determination not to call on the charitable except when management and utmost effort fails, which is the present disposition of not a few. And for the time to come, it appears to me that we are called upon by the developments of the day to be more cautious than we ever have been; unwilling any of us to be continually dupes of imposture, to shoulder laziness and patronize sin, to let others duties be shirked on to our backs, our sympathies be trifled with, and our weaknesses be played upon. We are called upon, everywhere, to put up barriers against an incoming ocean of dependence. We should meet applications with a keener insight, with more strength of mind, with a ready decision, without fear of offending, or of turning

away an undeserving lazaroni lest he should starve, when if he did, it might sometimes be better for him and us; in short, we should, in all our cities, have a determination thoroughly roused to know what we should do and for whom we should do. Then poverty would find its ordained limits. We are called, too, it appears to me, to minister less of substance, and more of light, more of kind advice as to self-dependence, management, habits, disposition, care and training of children, improvement of opportunities, the keeping of the Sabbath, and obedience to the commandments of God. This is the best way to serve the poor, a thousand times better than to deal only material food and raiment. Then shall we truly merit the epithet of being "good to the poor."

Of course I shall be understood as advocating the giving of material aid in private charity, in certain cases and in a certain indicated way. As far as that aid thus administered shall be necessary now and henceforth, and no farther, to me, as an agent of yours over the field of want, may not the barrel and cruise fail, which, under Providence, your sense of duty and liberality have never ceased for fourteen years to supply.

Respectfully submitted.

December 31, 1858.

HORATIO WOOD.

DIRECTORS OF THE
LOWELL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,

1858.

JOHN AVERY, President.
FREDERICK HINCKLEY,
J. B. FRENCH,
JOHN NESMITH,
E. B. BATCH,
N. M. WRIGHT,
MOSES G. HOWE,
A. R. BROWN,
HAPGOOD WRIGHT, Secretary.
WILLIAM G. WISE, Treasurer.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

1850

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
HAS THE HONOR TO ANNOUNCE
THAT IT HAS THE PLEASURE
TO ANNOUNCE THE DEPARTURE
OF THE S.S. "ALBATROSS"
FOR THE ISLANDS OF THE
PACIFIC OCEAN
ON THE 15TH INSTANT
UNDER THE COMMAND OF
CAPTAIN J. H. WALKER
AND WILL BE RE-CEIVED
AT THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
ON THE 15TH INSTANT

